

ABSTRACT

A three dimensional Graphical User Interface (GUI) enables the navigation of an unstructured list of data elements classified within leaf-nodes of a hierarchical category node tree. An engine for building the GUI requires only a category path and a URL, thereby enabling implementation of a simple API utilizing the category path and URL. The GUI displays one hierarchical level at a time and presents all aggregate elements with implied paths. Further, each level displays all matching sibling category nodes. These category node can be "drilled-down" to the next hierarchical level or "drilled-out" to access the data element. In one GUI version, each node is presented as a circle with the node's corresponding category name. In another version, the GUI displays the elements aggregate to a node as icons arranged in a cluster around the category name.